

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AF-10 MMS-03 OMB-01 CIAE-00 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

SAM-01 DRC-01 /100 W

----- 084229

P R 011759Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8352

SECDEF PRIORITY

INFO USCINCEUR

CINCPAC

CINCLANT

CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 02669

USCINCEUR, CINCPAC AND CINCLANT FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, IO, UK

SUBJECT: DIEGO GARCIA NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: DISCUSSIONS ON DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION WITH
UK FCO/MOD CONCLUDED ON FEBRUARY 28 WITH AD REFERENDUM
AGREEMENT ON TEXTS OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AND
SERVICE-TO-SERVICE EXCHANGES. ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS WAS
CORDIAL WITH UK TRYING TO MEET U.S. SUBSTANTIVE POINTS
WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY TRYING TO KEEP LANGUAGE OF GOVERN-
MENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT BLAND FOR PUBLIC AND THIRD
STATE PRESENTATION PURPOSES. UK GENERALLY SOUGHT TO
LIMIT SCOPE OF AGREEMENT WHILE U.S. SIDE TRIED TO MAKE
SURE THAT AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR OPTIMUM FUTURE FLEXI-
BILITY. UK REPRESENTATIVES RESERVED POSITION ON ONLY
ONE POINT - DEFINITION OF PURPOSE OF FACILITY - BUT
ALLOWED DRAFT TO PROCEED WITHOUT BRACKETED LANGUAGE
EVEN ON THIS ISSUE. ONLY SUBSTANTIAL U.S. POSITION NOT
ACHIEVED WAS RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT "ANYWHERE" ON ISLAND.

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FORMAL UK APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT PROBABLY WILL BE DE-

LAYED FOR SOME WEEKS AS NEW GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE AND
REQUIRES BRIEFINGS ON ALL ASPECTS OF FOREIGN POLICY.
END SUMMARY.

2. DISCUSSIONS ON DETAILS OF NEW AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE
FOR DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION BEGAN ON FEBRUARY 25 WITH
MEMBERS OF STATE/DOD TEAM ASSISTED BY EMBASSY AND FCO/MOD
TEAM HEADED BY J. E. JACKSON, HEAD OF FCO DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT. AFTER PRELIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND
THREE ALL-DAY NEGOTIATING SESSIONS, A REFERENDUM AGREEMENT
WAS REACHED ON A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT EXCHANGE
OF NOTES AND A SERVICE-TO-SERVICE EXCHANGE. THE ATMOSPHERE
OF THE TALKS WAS CORDIAL, ALTHOUGH THE BRITISH
CONSISTENTLY TRIED TO EXPRESS THE SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF
THE FACILITY IN NARROW TERMS, ASSERTEDLY FOR PRESENTATIONAL
PURPOSES, WHILE THE U.S. SIDE PRESSED FOR
LANGUAGE THAT WOULD MEET BRITISH COSMETIC CONCERNS
WITHOUT IMPAIRING FLEXIBILITY TO ACCOMMODATE ANY FUTURE
REQUIREMENTS.

3. SUMMARY OF MORE CONSEQUENTIAL ISSUES FOLLOWS:
A. FORM - AGREEMENT WILL COMPRIZE EXCHANGE OF NOTES
AUTHORIZING DEVELOPMENT OF PRESENT LIMITED NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS
FACILITY TO USN SUPPORT FACILITY, AND SUPERSEDING 1972 AGREEMENT.
B. TITLE - BRITS COULD NOT ACCEPT "MARITIME AND
AIR SUPPORT FACILITY". AGREEMENT EVENTUALLY REACHED ON
"SUPPORT FACILITY OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY" AS BEING
SUFFICIENTLY BROAD TO MEET DESIRES OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS;
IT WAS ACCEPTED BY BOTH SIDES THAT THIS MERELY INDICATES
NAVY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE OPERATING SERVICE, WITHOUT IMPLYING
ANY INHERENT RESTRICTION AS TO USING SERVICE OR
NATURE OF US ACTIVITIES.
C. SCOPE - BRITS WERE UNYIELDING IN THEIR VIEW THAT
THIS AGREEMENT, LIKE THAT OF 1972, SHOULD IDENTIFY A
SPECIFIC AREA FOR U.S. CONSTRUCTION, WITH HMG FREE TO
CONSTRUCT ITS OWN FACILITY EITHER INSIDE OR OUTSIDE THAT
AREA, EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE NO PRESENT UK PLANS TO DO SO.
SINCE EVEN U.S. AMMO STORAGE EXPECTED TO BE WITHIN PRESENTLY
DELIMITED AREA, WE ACCEPTED UK FORMULATION, BUT
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OBTAINED STRENGTHENED PROVISIONS REGARDING U.S. ACCESS
TO PORTIONS OF DIEGO OUTSIDE SPECIFIC AREA, AND CONSULTATION
BY HMG TO AVOID INTERFERENCE WITH U.S. USE,
EVEN WITH REGARD TO UK ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE SPECIFIC
AREA. BRITS ALSO WISHED TO DESCRIBE NEW FACILITY IN
IDENTICAL TERMS TO PRESENT FACILITY UNDER 1972 AGREEMENT,
BUT FINALLY ACCEPTED ADDITION OF "SUPPLY AND SUPPORT ELEMENTS"
AND "ANCILLARY SERVICES", IN ORDER TO

PRESERVE FLEXIBILITY FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS.
D. PURPOSE - THIS PROVED THE MOST DIFFICULT PARAGRAPH TO NEGOTIATE, WITH BRITS STRONGLY DESIROUS OF LIMITING IT TO IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS AND SUPPORT TO US/UK SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT. WE SUCCESSFULLY INSISTED ON BROADENING IT TO ENCOMPASS SUPPORT TO DEFENSE REQUIRE-

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MENTS OF BOTH GOVTs. BRITS ACCEPTED THIS FORMULATION FOR PURPOSES OF DRAFT AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT, BUT INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE TO CONSIDER IT IN FCO AND MOD EVEN PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS TO MINISTERS. OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT HMG WILL EVENTUALLY ADOPT U.S. POSITION ON THIS POINT.

F. SUPPLEMENTARY LETTERS - BRITS DESIRED EITHER AN ANNEX OR SUPPLEMENTARY EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING A FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH REGARD TO ADDITIONAL U.S. CONSTRUCTION FOR THE EXPANDED FACILITY. IN ORDER TO AVOID REQUIREMENT FOR FORMAL AMENDMENTS IN EVENT OF FUTURE

AND UNFORESEEABLE CHANGES, WE PERSUADED THEM TO ACCEPT U.S. DIPLOMATIC LETTER INFORMING HMG OF PLANNED CONSTRUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGING APPLICABILITY OF BIOT AND 1974 DIEGO GARCIA AGREEMENTS TO POSSIBLE FURTHER CONSTRUCTION. UK REPLY SIMPLY ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT AND CONFIRMS U.S. INTERPRETATION OF RELEVANT AGREEMENTS. THIS EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WILL REMAIN CLASSIFIED, AND WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED BY ANOTHER LETTER FROM CINCUSNAVEUR TO

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MOD SETTING FORTH DETAILS OF NEW CONSTRUCTION IN RELATION TO COMPARABLE ELEMENTS OF PRESENT COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.

4. AS OF MARCH 1, IT APPEARS THAT THERE WILL BE A CHANGE OF GOVERNMENTS IN UK. IF THIS OCCURS, FINAL UK APPROVAL OF DRAFT AGREEMENTS MAY TAKE SOME WEEKS AS NEW GOVERNMENT REVIEWS WIDE RANGE OF FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES.

5. IN CONNECTION WITH FOREGOING, THOMSON, SUPERVISING UNDERSECRETARY, FCO INFORMED STODDART SEPARATELY THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO INITIATE FIRST PERIODIC CONSULTATION CALLED FOR IN GOVERNMENT LEVEL AGREEMENT ON MUTUAL POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA DURING FIRST TWO WEEKS OF MAY IN LONDON. IT WAS LEFT THAT WE WOULD BE IN FURTHER CONTACT THROUGH OUR RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES IN DETERMINING FIXED DATE AND DEVELOPMENT OF AGENDA.

6. AGREED DRAFT TEXTS BEING POUCHED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 01 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: DIEGO GARCIA NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: MARR, XO, UK, US
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005